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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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COUNTRY USSR (Black Sea)

REPORT

SUBJECT Ports of Poti and Batumi

DATE DISTR. 5 March 1957

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REFERENCES

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PLACE & DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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Two reports on the port of Poti and one report on the port of Batumi, each with a layout sketch of the respective port

The reports contain general information on port installations and merchant and naval vessels in the ports. The report on Batumi gives the location of three possible radar installations on the hills behind the port.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: Russia

SUBJECT: The Port of BATUMI

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I. ORGANIZATION (See Drawing Attached).-

1. Outer fanal of harbor.
2. Buoys used for tying down ships of the Navy.
12. Cranes moving on iron tracks.

II. ANCHORED SHIPS.

The following ships were seen in the harbor:

A) C a r g o s h i p s:

[Redacted]

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7. The Russian tanker "OUAKOV"
8. " " " "A. JERNHCK"
9. " " " of unknown name.
10. Cargo ship flying unknown flag.

B) B a t t l e s h i p s:

3. Six small patrol ships, painted deep blue, bearing two guns on the stern and one on each side of the bridge. Same further bore on the right-hand side of the bridge, an iron pole with a cone on top.

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[Redacted]

5. Two vessels of the ML type.

[Redacted]

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6. Large patrol ship [redacted] bearing a gun on the prow, one on the right-hand side of the bridge and two on ther stern.

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III. MEANS OF NAVIGATION.

The following means of navigation were seen in the harbor;

The barge "OTHEONACHO", 800-1.000 tons [redacted] used for supplying ships with fuel (oil).

A steam-engined tug-boat.

11. Floating cranes, suitable for casting blocks of stone into the sea.

IV. WAR EXERCISES.

Blackout and gunfiring (this is conjectured from the glimmering of guns) against a target in the sea, excercises took place outside of the port of POTI at 22:15 hours [redacted]

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V. SEARCH LIGHTS.

Search lights were seen at night [redacted]

Same were planted at intervals along the coast-line and were searching the sea area.

VI. RADARS.

Buildings which could, possibly, be covered Radars, were observed on the tops of three hills hanging over the port of EATUM, the positions of these being determined, on the one hand, by true bearings a)110° b)165° and c)180° [redacted] at $\phi = 41^{\circ} 39' 2''$ N and $\lambda = 41^{\circ} 38' 6''$ E, and on the other hand, by the distances a)3.5 b)2.5 and c)3.5 miles from the outer fanal of the harbor (1).

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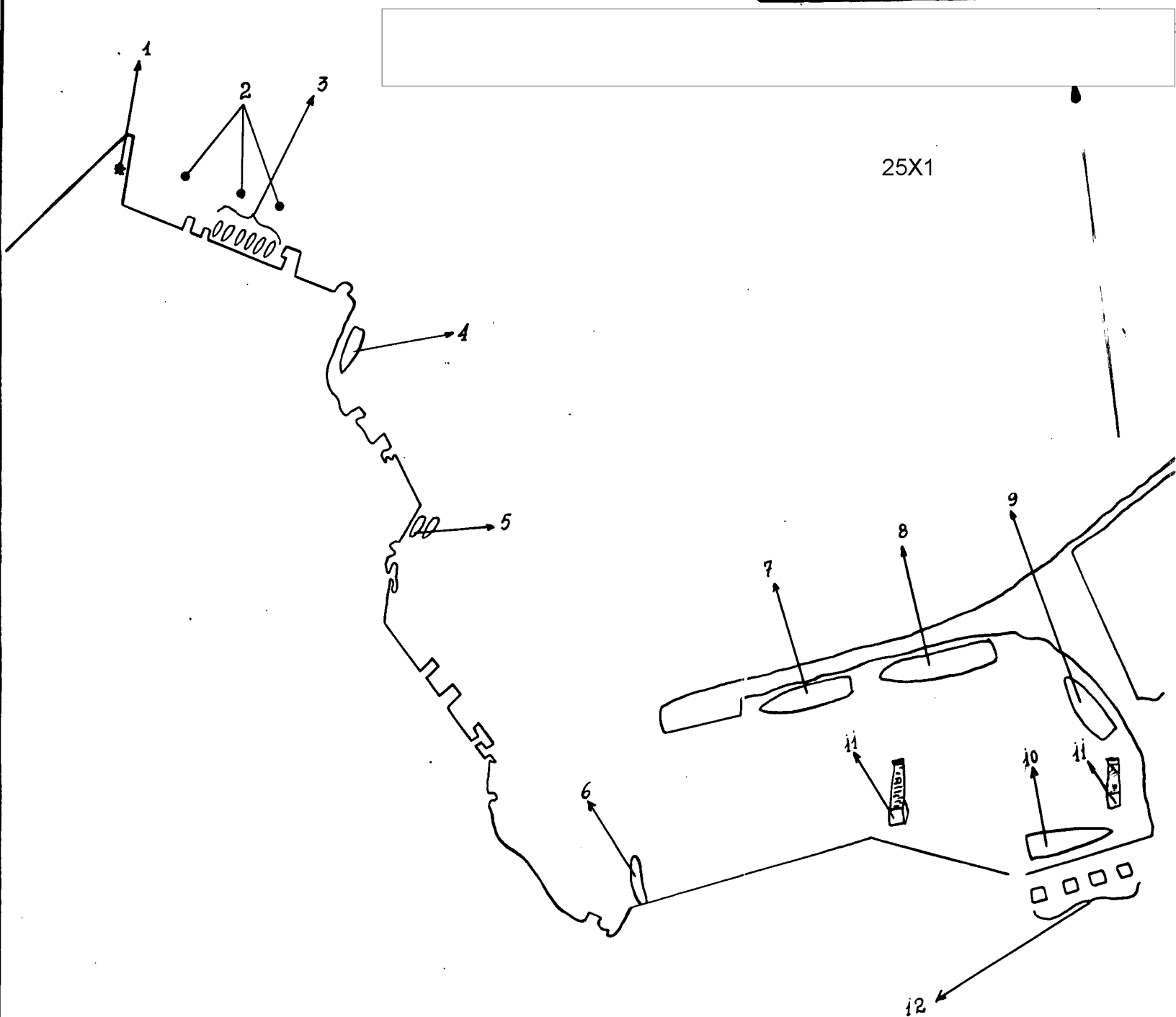
VII. ARMY SENTRY POST.

An army sentry post was observed on another hill, being at true bearing
095° from the afore-mentioned position [redacted] and a little beneath 25X1
its top.-

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BATUM



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[redacted] both north and south of the port, and more precisely from the Fort Anakria zone towards the south, and from the Fort Saint Nikilai zone towards the north, there are powerful searchlights installed along the coast which scan the sea and sky intermittently.

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26 November 1956: (0150 Hours) - [redacted]

[redacted] ships also anchored outside the port [redacted] were three Corvettes with the following characteristics: about 70 meters long, about 10 meters wide; 1 smokestack, armed with 75 Mm. cannons mounted on a forward turret. These vessels were equipped with radar. [redacted] (See # 2 on sketch).

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26 November 1956 (0700 Hours): [redacted]

Position # 4 - Three old warships exactly alike; well kept - of the Esploratore variety - about 2,000 tons DW [redacted] equipped with radar and gyro-compass, armament not observed.

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Position # 5 - Drydock with corvette of the same type observed in Position # 2 undergoing repairs. The stern of this craft was almost perpendicular and had in it two openings about 1-1/2 meters x 0,70 meters which could probably serve to launch depth bombs. Also in drydock was a tugboat with superstructure painted a military grey, disarmed, about 25 meters in length and 6 meters in width.

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Position # 6 - No. 3 Corvettes of the same type as in Position # 2 - presumably undergoing engine repairs.

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Position # 7 - Tender, about 3500 tons DW - no armament, no radar, no gyro-compass - being refitted to lay cable.

Position # 8 - Russian freighter - about 8000 tons DW, old type, loading manganese ore. Departed on 28 November 1956 for unknown destination.

Position # 9 - Russian freighter, about 3000 tons DW, old type, unloading coal dust and subsequently gone over to mineral loading dock (Position # 8).

Position # 10 - Russian freighter, old type, unloading coal. This freighter subsequently went over to the mineral loading dock.

Position # 11 - Rather old passenger ship, painted white, rather well kept - DW about 3,000 or 4,000 tons, one smokestack. This ship departed on the morning of 28 November 1956.

Position # 12 - Manganese ore depot.

Position # 13 - Double railroad track.

Position # 14 - Eight cranes, electrically operated - lifting power 5 tons.

Position # 15 - Road.

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Position # 16 - Three brick buildings surrounded by trees used as offices.

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*Pati
(black
sun)*

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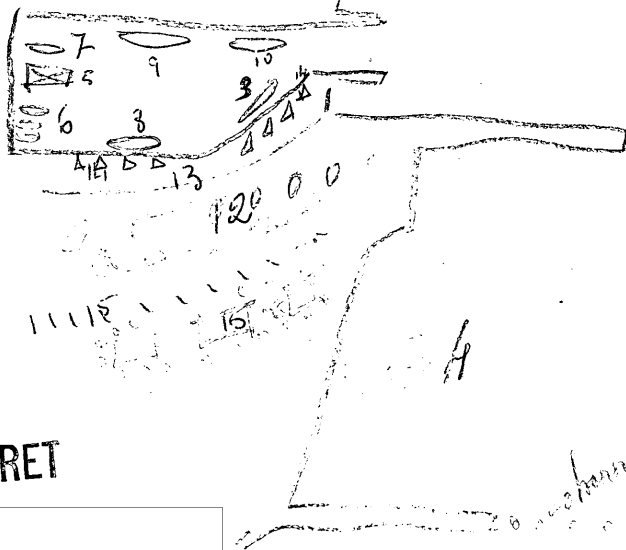
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COUNTRY: RUSSIA

SUBJECT: Port of POTI

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I. ORGANIZATION (See attached plan)

1. ^{Dock}~~Place~~/on which there were observed five (5) cranes of approximately 15 tons' lifting capacity, that moved on tracks.
2. Area of the workshops.
3. Area where about 15 workers were working, in two shifts, and were constructing large blocks of gravel. There were already ready about 200 such blocks.
4. Recently constructed breakwaters.

II. SHIPS IN PORT

The following ships were observed inside the port:

a) Merchant Ships

5. Ship of unknown identity, being loaded - with the aid of two cranes - with 10,200 tons of manganese

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Generally, 4/5 of the ships that were in the port were Russian and the rest of other nationalities.

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b) Warships

6. Four or five torpedo-boats.

7. Five or six destroyers moored by the stern.

Generally, there were observed in the port quite a few warships which every day left the port during the afternoon hours and returned in the morning hours. They were evidently carrying out manoeuvres, because gunfire was heard at intervals. There were also observed leaving the port every day - by being towed - targets, which were about 8 meters high and 10 meters wide; they were net-like frames on the top part of which they had three round targets.

III. FLOATING MEANS

8. Floating dry-dock on which there was a Russian ship of about 4 to 5,000 tons. Next to it there were observed two ships of about 300 tons each, rather newly built, painted with minium and with their superstructures incomplete.

9. Dredger of the Mangano (sic) type, which was quite big. Two barges were observed near it.

IV. GENERAL

- Except for the health and the currency control, recently no other checking is made on the foreign ships both when they arrive as well as when they depart.

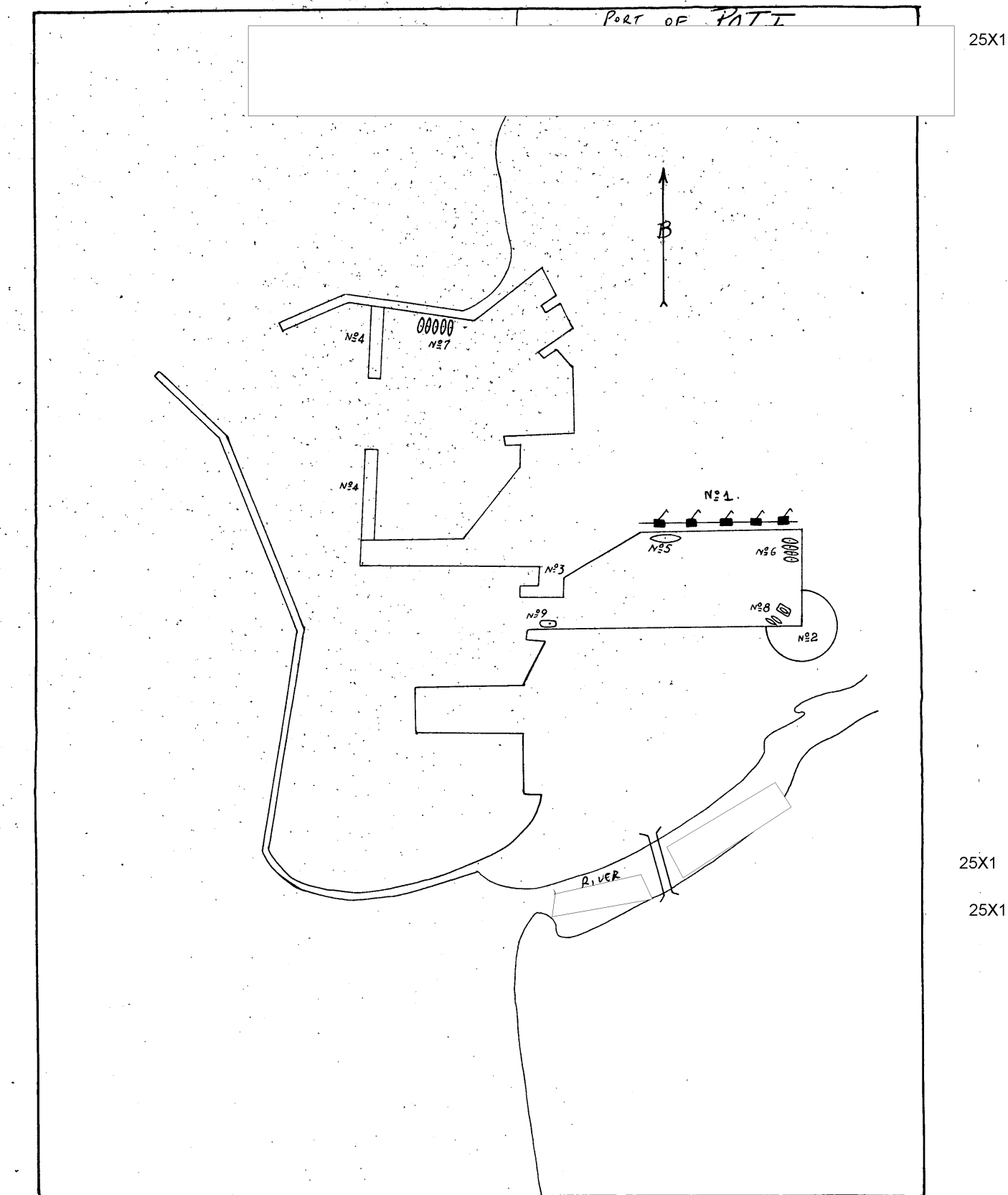
- The cameras that are declared are not sealed.

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